

# Just so you'll know...

Willow Canyon First Ward

December 1996

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Dec 4 Stake YM/YW  
Committee Meeting  
7:30 pm, 17 E
- Dec 3 Sr. Primary Girls  
Achievement Day
- Dec 5 Rountables at  
Mt. Jordan Middle  
School
- Dec 6 Missionary Excursion  
to Temple Square
- Dec 7 Stake Baptism
- Dec 8 Single Adult Multi-  
Region Fireside 7:30 pm
- Dec 8 First Presidency  
Christmas Devotional
- Dec 15 Choir Practice 12:05 pm
- Dec 15 Ward Council/Welfare  
Meetings
- Dec 11 Adult Christmas Party
- Dec 12 Stake Priesthood  
Leadership Meeting  
7:30 pm, 17 E
- Dec 15 Choir Practice 12:05 pm
- Dec 17 Sr. Primary Girls  
Achievement Day
- Dec 17 Mike Scott Wedding
- Dec 15 Choir Practice 12:05 pm
- Dec 21 Dustin Johnson  
Wedding
- Dec 25 Christmas
- Dec 29 Choir Practice 12:05 pm

## THINGS TO REMEMBER:

The **ward Christmas party** this year is for adults only and will be held instead of Relief Society Homemaking meeting on December 11th at 6:30 p.m.

The **Young Men and Young Women** have a combined **Christmas party** at the war on December 3rd. There will not be any YM/YW activities on the 24th or the 31st.

Be sure to send those cards and Christmas greetings to our ward **Missionaries**. They would love to hear from you. They miss a lot this time of the year and would greatly appreciate any contact from home that they can get. Remember them in your prayers too.

There will be a Fireside on Friday, December 6th at the Buttercup building at 7:00 p.m. This is a **Christmas Music Fireside** presented by the Dan Carter Singers. It will also feature the music composed by Dan Carter of "Come Unto Him" that the Tabernacle Choir sang a few weeks ago. Children who won't mind sitting still and quiet for just over an hour are welcome to come too. It will be a wonderful presentation. Everyone is invited.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Congratulations to Lindsay Davis who was nominated and elected as the secretary for the National Junior Honor Society. She is a Junior at Jordan High School this year.

Misty Davis will marry Peter Pedersen in March. Bill Murri baptized Peter's father in Denmark when he was there on his mission as a young man!

## NEW WARD POSITIONS:

Kim Southworth – Cub Master

Michael Jones –

YM Second Counselor

Marie France Arnold –

Relief Society President

Kristen Powell – First Counselor

Ronee Scott – Second Counselor

**Our ward is doing very well with getting our Home and Visiting Teaching done. Thanks to all who have put forth this effort. The best and most important part of the whole thing is that our ward members are being visited. The good numbers just make us look good and make our Bishopric happy! Keep up the good work!**

Enjoy the beauty of this season and keep the true meaning as the most remembered part of it.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
GREETINGS TO THESE  
WARD MEMBERS:**

- Dec 2 Pamela Messerly
- Dec 3 Tessa Hermann
- Dec 4 Matthew Frederickson
- Dec 5 Rita Kelly
- Dec 5 William Rockhill
- Dec 5 Allyn Thompson
- Dec 5 Slade Womack
- Dec 6 Stephanie Davis
- Dec 7 Marjan Fairclough
- Dec 9 Jennifer McLain
- Dec 10 Amanda Messerly
- Dec 11 Brian Frederickson
- Dec 11 Jaclyn Johnson
- Dec 12 Kaden Womack
- Dec 13 Dale Hanson
- Dec 16 Yvonne Bishop
- Dec 17 John Williams
- Dec 18 Dorothy Mahler
- Dec 21 Delilah Alexander
- Dec 22 Marlene Baarz
- Dec 23 Amber Williams
- Dec 23 Matt Yeager
- Dec 25 Carolyn Crofoot
- Dec 25 Kristopher Jones
- Dec 25 Nickolas Jones
- Dec 30 Scott Williams
- Dec 31 Samantha Jackson
- Dec 31 Garrett Southworth
- Dec 31 Bob Thompson

**A BEAUTIFUL SILVER STAR**

When the Allied forces made their big push into Germany it was the duty of my military police battalion to take prisoners from the front lines into crudely constructed stockades.

I shall never forget December 24, 1944, and the German prisoner-of-war who helped to make it memorable for me.

I was a bitter cold night and I found myself on duty helping to guard more than twelve hundred German prisoners.

To say we were a homesick group of men would be an understatement. The fact that it was Christmas Eve only added to our depression.

One of our company, a man from the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee, stopped blowing on his hands long enough to say:

"What a cold miserable Christmas! Just because we are stuck out here doesn't mean we can't do something about it. I'm going out and find a tree."

"Forget it!" another M.P. shouted. "There are no trees around here; besides, we haven't anything to decorate it with anyway."

Not to be discouraged, Smoky went into the darkness and later returned with a bedraggled specimen.

"You call that thing a tree?" our heckler continued. "In Texas we'd plow that under for a bush."

With a positive attitude, Smoky began to decorate his tree with ornaments made from gum wrappers, candy wrappers, etc.

Several of the men not stationed directly at the stockade began to help our zealous friend with his seemingly impossible task.

As we worked I suddenly heard a voice calling from the stockade: "American, American."

Turning toward the compound I saw a German prisoner with one hand extended through the barbed wire. With his other hand he was motioning toward me.

I quickly threw a shell into the chamber of my rifle and approached him with caution. What I saw in his hand astounded me. This prisoner had made a beautiful silver star, entirely from gum foil, that was a work of art. He placed the star in my hand and motioned to the top of our tree.

Hoping he spoke some English,

I said: "This star has such detail, are you a professional artist?" By his puzzled expression it was obvious he spoke no more English than I spoke German, so I took his contribution over and placed it atop our tree.

"Well, I'll be!" heckler began again. "I hate to admit this, but that bush is beginning to look like a real tree. Guess I should have kept my mouth shut, eh, Smoky?" (A loud cheer of agreement resounded from all the men.)

As we completed our tree we began singing Christmas carols, and I noticed several of the prisoners joined in on "Silent Night."

The last strains were fading into the night when I heard the same voice call: "American."

This time the prisoner had both hands extended through the barbed wire. Again I approached with caution, rifle ready, and again I was amazed at what he held in his hands.

This German sculptor had made intricate figures of Joseph, Mary, and the Christ Child. He pointed under the tree as he handed me his detailed work.

I nodded my thanks and carefully placed the delicate figures where he had indicated.

As I placed the tiny figure of the Christ Child, made from a stick base and professionally covered with foil, the light from our fire actually seemed to give it a heavenly glow. I thought of how far we had strayed from the teachings of Jesus and felt tears sting my eyes.

Looking at the stockade, I saw the prisoner was still by the barbed wire, so I hurried back, smiled, and warmly shook his hand.

He returned my smile and the firelight caught the tears that were in his eyes.

Since the close of World War II I have thought of this German prisoner-of-war numerous times.

Our meeting was brief, we were two ships that passed in the night, and yet I feel this man would agree that our only hope for a lasting world peace would be a return to the teachings of the tiny figure he so beautifully molded that cold December night. One thing is certain: if we love the Lord we also have a genuine concern for all mankind—the two are synonymous.

— by Ivan T. Anderson



**Senior  
Primary  
Girls Achievement  
Days this month are  
the first and third  
Tuesdays. Come on  
December 3rd & 17th.**